

The Constitution and By-Laws

BLACK WOMEN UNITED FOR ACES

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this Association shall be known as:

BLACK WOMEN UNITED FOR Awareness, Communication, Effectiveness, Solidarity.; hereforth mentioned as BWU for A.C.E.S.

Article II - Preamble

We, the BWU are cognizant of the fact that change cannot be made in the society-at-large until we have recognized ourselves as others see us and begin to change within ourselves and the community in which we live, work, and cope with both large and small adversities. Awareness is the basis of getting things done in our communities, our schools, our churches, our social institutions and in organizations which purport to represent us in one way or another. Members of A.C.E.S. must be aware and willing to be women of action. Communication is very important among Black people, and the lack of adequate communication between women has been a driving force which has kept us divided instead of united. Although we are unaware of the problems of Black women in parts of the state to which we do not travel, work, or live, We as Black Women United take an active interest in their problems; However, we cannot be Aware, Communicable or Effective, without Solidarity and a basic knowledge of the body politics which governs us all and which, to some measure, sets standards by which we live and goal we hope to achieve. Therefore, it becomes essential for A.C.E.S. to be active in the political arena of this state and nation. It is our aim to encourage greater participation in political activities and to develop the highest offices possible for the election slate; a cadre of Black Women to challenge the unspoken plethora of tokenism in political

affairs. This is not to say that our politics should separate us from others in the political arena, but, rather to make them aware that our self-determination is to bring more Black women into meaningful political stature.

ARTICLE III

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this solidarity is to alert, inform, communicate effectively, and raise the consciousness of Black Women in New Jersey to the fact of their fullest potential as a part of the society in which they exist and to instill the realization that Black progress must come as a result of our own personal awareness, self-actualization and self-help. It is also our objective to be unified in our efforts, and through this unification become a major vehicle through which we can work as individuals or as a group to improve social, economical, spiritual, civic and family life for all Blacks.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I. Membership in the BWU for A.C.E.S. (hereforth known as A.C.E.S.) shall consist of active, associate, affiliate and life membership. The latter will be granted to our founder.

SECTION II. Active members will receive full voting privileges. These members must be aware of our purpose and goals and pledge to embrace our principle ideals.

SECTION III. Associate members will be available to interested individuals and/or groups that exemplify concerns and commitments of B.W.U.. As it is not our purpose to be exclusionary as an organization working for the impairment of society, the associate membership will allow the participants to partake of all privileges, with the exception of voting.

SECTION IV. Affiliate membership shall be opened to groups and/or organizations who exemplify the same concerns as previously stated.

SECTION V. The Executive Committee shall have the power to pass upon the credentials of all applicants for membership, in accordance with provisions of the preceding sections of this article.

ARTICLE V - Officers

SECTION I. The officers of this solidarity shall be a Chairman of the Board, a President, a Vice President, 21 county, Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and a Parliamentarian. The Executive Board shall consist of the Chairman of the Board, the President, the Vice President, the Recording Secretary and the Treasurer.

SECTION II. The electors shall hold office for the period of 2 years beginning October following their elections.

ARTICLE VI - Election of Officers

SECTION I. The election of the President, Executive Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer will be conducted by mailing in bi-annual preferential ballot to all active members in good standing. The person who receives the plurality shall be declared elected by the Nominating Committee which is appointed by the President. In case of a tie, the successful candidate shall be determined by ballot of the Executive Committee.

SECTION II. The results of balloting shall be announced at a business session of the October meeting of the solidarity. The President shall call for the report of the Nominating Committee to announce the results of the election of officers.

ARTICLE VII - Duties of Officers

SECTION I. President: To acquire a working knowledge of parliamentary law and procedure along with a thorough knowledge and understanding of the constitution, by-laws and standing rules of this solidarity.

To preside and maintain order and

To keep an active list and/or guide of committees and membership status to use as a guide in filling old or making new appointments.

To be aware of all communication but to act fair and accordingly.

To put all motions to a vote and to extend courtesy to opponents of a motion.

To give signature when necessary

To show appreciation to officers and chairmen of committees for devoted service.

To perform other duties as are prescribed in the by-laws.

SECTION II. Executive Vice President - In the absence of the President, presides and performs the duties of president. To head an important committee or share in supervising a department as outlined by the by-laws. She is also

To be responsible for the reports of the County Vice Presidents and relay this report to the president.

SECTION III. Recording Secretary - To Keep minutes of the meetings

To take roll and mark the absentees at board meetings.

To read minutes of previous meeting (preferably standing)

To record names of members who introduce motions. It is not necessary to record the seconder.

To notify committees of their appointments and business.

To maintain a copy of the constitution and by-laws.

To call a meeting together in the absence of the president or the vice president and to take charge until the election of a chairlady pro tem, which should take place immediately.

SECTION IV. Corresponding Secretary - To have a list of all members and

To notify absent members of meetings as well as

To conduct correspondence as directed and also

To read the important gist of all correspondence at meetings.

SECTION V. Treasurer - To receive and bank all monies due to the solidarity.

To keep bookkeeping records of such funds.

To pay whenever possible by checks, countersigned by the president.

To pay bills from officers and committee members that have been approved by the membership, and that show proper receipts.

To give a financial statement at each meeting.

To give a complete report at annual meeting.

SECTION VI. Parliamentarian; is appointed by the President and is a person who is well versed in the rules and procedures of parliamentary law. She has a copy of the constitution and by-laws, standing rules, program, and general information before the meeting to familiarize herself with the basic rules. Questions or inquiries intended should be addressed to her through the Chair, because the Chair is the presiding officer. The parliamentarian alerts the Chair when serious errors occur, but the responsibility for the decisions rest with the President, who is in control. The parliamentarian should also be well versed in parliamentary terms.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

SECTIONS I. A full meeting of the solidarity will be held bi-annually in _____ and in _____. A quorum for meetings will be $\frac{1}{3}$ of paid active membership.

SECTION II. The Executive board will meet quarterly.

SECTION III. County Meetings will be as designated by the County Vice-President or when deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

SECTION IV. Standing Committees will meet as directed.

SECTION V. Emergency meetings will be called as warranted.

ARTICLE IX

STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION I. Nominating & Election Committee - shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board, at least 45/forty-five days prior to the election. It is the duty of this committee to place two or more candidates for office on each slate. Members of the nominating committee who desire to run for office should decline from participation on the committee. They should also thoroughly explain the voting procedure to the membership, and the number of officers and vacancies to be filled. No member shall run or be elected to office unless she is a paid member in good standing for at least one (1) year.

SECTION II. Membership Committee - will be composed of members in good standing appointed by the Executive Board. Its purpose is to evaluate the applicants and review the recommendation of the membership for the purpose of acceptance. At such times as deemed necessary, the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may appoint a Grievance Committee to adjudicate disputes.

SECTION III. Additional Standing Committees - the following committees will initiate when deemed necessary by the Executive Board:

1. Fund Raising
2. Legislative
3. Public Relations
4. Program
5. Constitution

ARTICLE X

AMENDING PROCEDURES

These by-laws may be amended by a _____ vote of the membership, present and voting at a semi-annual membership of the solidarity. A copy of the proposed amendment must be addressed to the membership and

read aloud at the meeting. Copies are retained by the Secretaries, the Parliamentarian and the President. Each County-Vice President should attain a copy to be passed to her successor.

ARTICLE XI

The effective date of these by-laws is immediate upon approval by a majority of the membership.